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The dangers of importing church-growth theories

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■ LIVING OUR VISION

'Some of our most impactful work has occurred in an innovative space'

others

CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION



The ministry
of reconciliation.

Responding to racial tension and conflict



MAY
2018

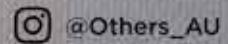
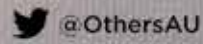
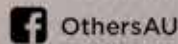
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ISSUE 05
VOLUME 02
AUD \$2.00

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Celebrating our great army of volunteers.

SCOTT SIMPSON | MANAGING EDITOR

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK will be celebrated later this month, from 21-27 May. I wonder if you ever stop to consider the significance of volunteers for The Salvation Army. Put simply, without the willingness of people from all walks of life, from all corners of our communities, to generously give of their time without thought of any recompense, many aspects of the work of The Salvation Army would likely cease to exist.

Penny Aquino and Lucinda Gayl, who jointly oversee the Army's vast network of volunteers in Australia, say there are more than 100,000 people across the country who regularly donate their time to The Salvation Army. That is a staggering number.

"The Salvation Army was founded on volunteer service. Our army of volunteers continues to be vital to our mission force, as we work together to serve thousands of Australians every year," says Penny. You can find out more about the Army's volunteer resources at www.sarmy.org.au/en/Resources/Volunteer-resources and toolkit.salvos.org.au/toolkit/contributors/volunteer-resources

Coincidentally, National Volunteer Week falls into the same time frame as the Red Shield Appeal doorknock weekend (26-27 May). And, according to The Salvation Army's Community Fundraising Director, Andrew Hill, over the course of the appeal "70,000 volunteers will come with us around the country". It's these volunteers that we have chosen to feature in this issue of *Others*. You can read our story on pages 20-21.

"Volunteer collectors are crucial to the success of the Red Shield Appeal and need to

be appreciated and celebrated," says Andrew. Consequently, he is encouraging corps and centres to turn their buildings into party venues over the doorknock weekend, so that when volunteers have returned with their collections they get a sense that they are valued and part of something special.

Salvationists can also show their appreciation for our volunteers in another practical way; namely, by getting out on the streets in large numbers themselves over the doorknock weekend and collecting alongside these volunteers. And the benefits don't stop there.

The Red Shield Appeal, as it has been for more than 50 years, is one of the most important dates on The Salvation Army calendar, the success of the campaign having a major influence on the Army's potential for ministry. This year's public collection target nationally is \$7.5 million. Whether that target is met – or even exceeded – depends on the willingness of Salvationists and volunteers to get out there and do their bit. It's no coincidence that many of the regions which enjoy an increase in Red Shield Appeal giving on previous years, are the same ones that report a rise in the number of people out collecting over doorknock weekend.

The equation is simple: more people collecting equals more donations and more opportunity to meet the people in our corps neighbourhood. So, let's get out there alongside our great army of volunteers and knock on some doors. •

Scott Simpson is the
Managing Editor of *Others*





Salvation Army corps and centres are being encouraged to use this month's Red Shield Appeal Doorknock as an opportunity to celebrate our volunteers.



Issue 05
May 2018

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Others is a monthly publication of The Salvation Army in Australia. *Others* is printed by Focus Print Group, 25 Arctic Crt, Keysborough, Vic, 3173, Australia. Print post approved PP236902/00023. Member, Australasian Religious Press Association.

All Bible references are quoted from the *New International Version* unless otherwise stated.

Subscriptions

Annual: \$24 (includes GST).
Available from: subscriptionsothers@aus.salvationarmy.org
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Fostering a culture of creativity

WORDS | COMMISSIONER FLOYD TIDD

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins” (Mark 2:21-22).

A RETIRED SALVATION ARMY OFFICER recently reminded me of how highly regarded our movement is in the community when it comes to trying new things. He recounted an occasion when a local state member of parliament retold to him the story of *Soldiers of the Cross*, the Salvos’ pioneering multi-media presentation in Melbourne that was once thought to be the world’s first feature film. The politician had commented: “It is remarkable the lengths your movement has gone to bringing your mission to life in this and other lands. What else have you done that would surprise me?”

In our continuously evolving society, every expression of The Salvation Army is adapting to respond to the needs of Australians. Daily, Salvos are demonstrating their unparalleled capacity to think differently and act strategically in their local context, deploying practical solutions to complex problems. In our DNA is a spirit of innovation, an agility. We listen and act with compassion, to ultimately transform this nation one life at a time.

While some of our innovations – like *Soldiers of the Cross* – are widely known, there is a back catalogue a kilometre long of ideas and innovations that Salvos worldwide have designed that aren’t publicly known. To some, our innovative ways are a surprise, but to us, it is all in a day’s work to serve our Lord and Saviour.

Innovation is undoubtedly at the heart of our movement. Salvos are instinctively radical and pioneering.

Through the inspiration of the gospel, Salvos have been called to build schools, film one-of-a-kind movies, make inspirational music and think of creative ways of making enterprise change one’s life. It is this kind of endeavour that must continue to be at the heart of our movement.

“

Innovation is undoubtedly at the heart of our movement. Salvos are instinctively radical and pioneering.

”

God’s intricate designs in creation continually reveal him to be a creator of amazing innovation and diversity. In Lamentations we are reminded that God’s compassion is new every morning. Our generous, creative God is our inspiration.

Throughout this national transition journey we have committed to fostering a culture of innovation. Fuelled by our fervent commitment to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus, it is my prayer that we will continue our heritage of surprising and delighting Australians and the wider world with our creative responses to human need. ■

Commissioner Floyd Tidd is National Commander of The Salvation Army in Australia



INDIA NORTHERN
TERRITORY
– A SPIRITUAL
AND MISSIONAL
LINK TO
AUSTRALIA

*How well do you know
The Salvation Army world?
In this regular feature, we
give an overview of one
of The Salvation Army's
partners in mission – the India
Northern Territory.*

The India Northern Territory has been brought together in mission by the 2017 territorial theme, “Arise and Shine”, based on Isaiah 60:1. During the year, the territory held a social seminar, under the theme “Working Together”, at Sevakendra, Kolkata. Additionally, all officers and local officers attended self-reliance seminars and have made the commitment to implement self-support in their appointments wherever possible.

Officers councils for senior leaders made a huge spiritual impact. On the last day of the seminars, the Whole World Mobilising flag was introduced as part of the Whole World Mobilising, Go Forward! initiative. An impressive march of witness followed.

In villages, awareness is being raised of social, economic and health issues through almost 1000 active self-help groups, giving women the opportunity to develop skills in sewing, embroidery and tailoring, enabling them to make an income. Women’s Ministries members provided blankets as Christmas gifts to people in desperate need by making and selling pain balm, peanut butter, aprons, flowers and decorative stars. Home League rallies focused on the international theme “Transformed in God’s image”, and the training college led a seminar on Women’s Ministries and its importance, described by the cadets as “eye-opening”.

As part of Australia’s spiritual relationship with the India Northern Territory, retired officers, Lieutenant-Colonels John and Pamela Hodge, led the territory’s first Soldiers’ Brengle Institute last November. Eight women, many of whom are local officers, were among the group who attended. One young man travelled two days to get there.

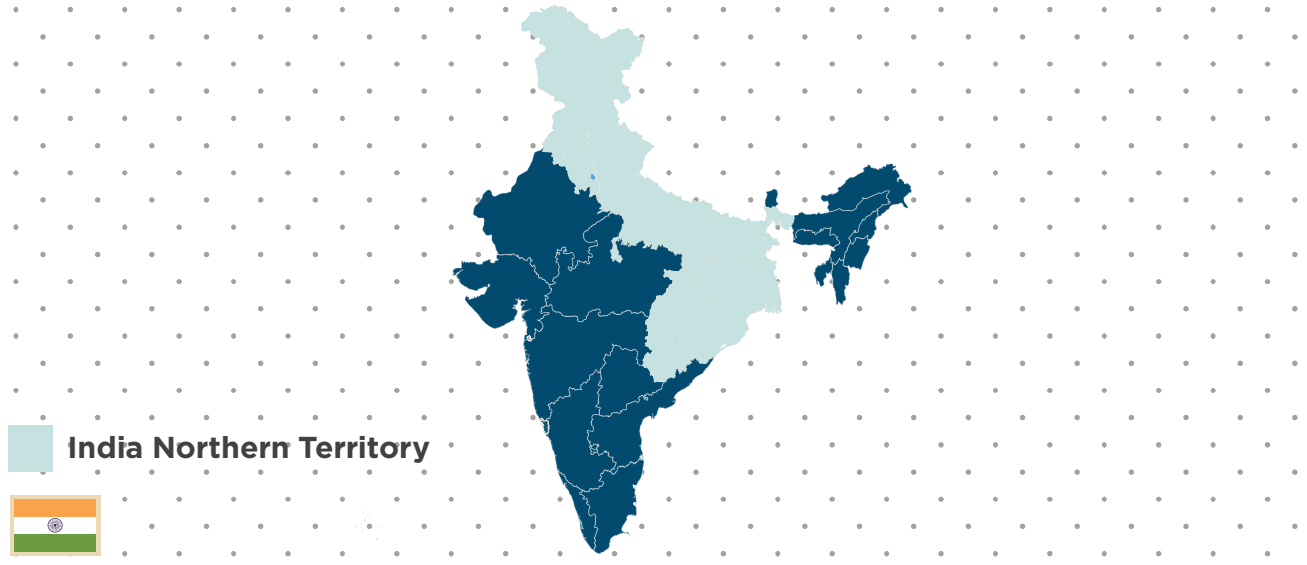
“It is always a privilege to encourage others towards spiritual maturity,” said Lieut-Colonel John Hodge. “The 24 delegates were really keen to learn what holiness is about and its application to our

587	Officers (active 391)
171	Corps
321	Employees
71,722	Senior Soldiers
2925	Adherents
6029	Junior Soldiers
933	Outposts
2	Hospitals
18	Schools
18	Institutions

everyday life. Their response reminded me that in every culture there are different responses to Christ and his teaching. For me in Australia, it is apathy and secularism. To our Indian brothers and sisters it is often direct opposition and distinguishing Christian principles from tradition.”

Another retired Australian officer, Lieut-Colonel Olive Lucas, was one of the leaders supporting a two-day officer retreat at Central Corps. Also last year, Angul Divisional Commander, Major Joseph Khan, invited Lieut-Colonel Lucas to help lead a retreat for the young people of the division, as well as the Jasidih District. Lieut-Colonel Lucas gave each of the youths a Bible to use throughout the retreat and keep afterwards. She led sessions on spiritual formation, meditation, prayer and spiritual disciplines. “The retreat helped them in their spiritual journey as true soldiers of Jesus,” said Major Khan.





Q&A

Interview with Australia's Salvation Army International Development (SAID) team about its projects in India Northern Territory.

Q: *What projects do you have in the territory?*

A: We are involved with the Community Empowerment Program, a large-scale program that aims to empower over 5000 women in four Indian states, through the Self-Help Group (SHG) model. We are also involved with a research and scoping project in a community in West Bengal, which is investigating a widespread serious drug and health problem. This research will provide us with an evidence basis on which we can design an intervention/project in the future. And we are involved with a Young Women Skill Development program, which is focused on providing vocational tailoring training for disadvantaged women.

Q: *How are these projects building sustainability, improved lives, capacity, and hope?*

A: The SHG model is one that has large potential for sustainability of impact. The field organisers of an agency, after facilitating the formation of groups, then input resources, expertise and support into the groups until they can function independently. This input includes community organisation, loans, awareness of health and social issues, as well as the development of savings capacity, income-generating skills, networks, and education. Improving lives and giving hope is done in a multifaceted and holistic way, from economics and health, to education and strength in communities. These projects specifically aim to also build capacity in India Northern Territory's staff, through training, resources, and supporting professional staff.

Q: *Is there a particular project that stands out in terms of its impact in people's lives?*

A: The Community Empowerment Program. This empowers groups of women through facilitating intra-group loans and making available resources, loans and services from different

stakeholders such as local governments, microfinance institutions, health service and banks. This program strengthens the capacity of the groups until they are able to operate independently without an external facilitator, and as a part of a larger "federation" of SHGs. The women are empowered to sell their product through online and offline marketing to increase their income, develop networks, access public and private resources, and it also builds awareness on health and social issues.

Q: *How do you see the relationship with the India Northern Territory going forward?*

A: We will continue our long-term partnership through community development projects, mission support, ongoing capacity building and training of India Northern Territory projects staff and participants. We are always looking for additional creative ways to mutually connect on a spiritual and relational level as well. Our strategy for developing relationships with our partners in mission matches that of the strategy and vision of Australia One.



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WORDS

JOHN STACKHOUSE

The final frontier.

*God has put it out of reach ...
for now*

AS ELON MUSK indulges in the world's highest-altitude product placement, putting both SpaceX and Tesla into solar orbit, theological questions inescapably occur to one, don't they?

I've been a space and science fiction nut for a long, long time. My parents bought me a 12-volume encyclopedia of "aeronautics and space exploration" in the wake of the Apollo moon landings and I read them cover to cover. Visits to local used bookstores brought me boxes of worn-out paperback books, from H.G. Wells to Harlan Ellison, and from Ray Bradbury to C.S. Lewis (which I found pretty dull at 12 years old). We're still waiting for those flying cars and jetpacks, although monorail elevated train services exist and video wristwatches are nicely approximated by smartphones running Skype, FaceTime, or Hangouts. But space travel itself? Forget the low-earth orbit stuff. What about getting into the black?

Some people wonder if the prospects of space travel and encounters with aliens will pose problems for Christianity. I don't see why. Christians believe we have already met the Supreme Being. Meeting inhabitants of other planets is thus put into tolerable perspective, and in a not-frightening-end-of-the-world way, since the Book that actually tells us about the end of the world implicitly

rules out global devastation wrought by space invaders.

What about alien species having their equivalent of the Fall? Would God somehow rescue them via incarnation and atonement, too? Some theologians say that's impossible, since Jesus has now united himself with a human body. But theologians should be careful about pronouncing about what God cannot do.

We Christians believe that God is a Trinity because God has revealed Godself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But nowhere in the Bible does it say God is only three. Maybe God is more, and one of those "more" rescued aliens long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away. We have no reason to believe God is anything other than triune, of course. I still recite the Creed. I'm just saying that Christians have no immediate worry when some

Some people wonder if the prospects of space travel and encounters with aliens will pose problems for Christianity. I don't see why. Christians believe we have already met the Supreme Being.

clever sceptic poses that question. "We don't know how God treats life on other planets. The Bible addresses itself entirely to life on this one, and it seems to imply that we have our hands full already down here."

What about space travel? When I was a kid reading about space, I encountered a Big Discouraging Fact. (Nowadays, there is another one: Given the theories regarding dark matter and dark energy, scientists believe we actually know almost nothing about 90 per cent of the universe.) The Big Discouraging Fact is that everything in the universe is – and I'll use precise scientific terminology here

– really, really far apart. Like, really far.

We've become used to science-fiction astronauts travelling vast distances. But screenwriters cheat all the time. Yes, it would take only three years to get to Jupiter (at top rocket speed, to be sure), but Jupiter is just over yonder in the solar neighbourhood. To get to the next nearest star, Alpha Centauri, would take 165,000 years at the speed of the space shuttle's engines, and at least a human lifetime even with mind-bending technologies blasting us along at one-tenth the speed of light. That's to the nearest star.

So forget "warp drive" and "worm holes" and the latest gobbledygook about instant space travel along vast networks of ... mushroom tendrils (it doesn't make much more sense even when you watch *Star Trek: Discovery*). We're isolated here. And maybe for good reason. That boring old C.S. Lewis wrote of Earth as "the silent planet," cordoned off from the rest of the universe because of the moral infection afflicting our world. Maybe we've been kept in this cosmic quarantine of uncrossable distances until God's rehabilitative work with us is done.

And then? Then, like Jesus rising up from the Mount of Ascension, our bodies will be capable of new forms of locomotion. Or the Holy Spirit will just teleport us, like he seems to have done with Philip in Acts 8.

So, for the meanwhile, we should tend to the garden God gave us and submit to God's healing of Earth's gardeners. If we do, one day we'll be ready to explore the rest of the cosmos without exploiting it. I can hardly wait. •

.....
John Stackhouse is Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University in Canada.
.....



**WORTH
QUOTING.**

Nothing is so likely permanently to stop soul-saving as the want of intense zeal on the part of our own people. - **General Edward J. Higgins**

WORDS
ANNE HOLDEN

Food for thought.

Conquering addiction through spiritual nourishment

I AM AN ADDICT. My drug of choice is easily accessible and I have no trouble getting my fix. Due to the shame of my addiction, I try to hide it, but the outward evidence is clear to all. I have struggled with this addiction for most of my adult life. My days have dawned with prayers for strength and the resolve to “just say no”. My days have frequently ended with a sense of failure and prayers for forgiveness.

During my psychological assessment prior to being accepted as a cadet for Salvation Army officer training, tests indicated that I had addictive personality traits. The psychiatrist seemed relieved that I could readily identify food as the issue. I often feel like I bear the shame of this struggle alone, and yet I know I don't. I hear that one of the most common goals among officers is weight loss.

To be clear, I do not want to contribute to our culture's obsession with thinness. But it is also my responsibility to keep my body healthy to be able to serve God. If so many others struggle as I do, why do we make light of it? Why are we so concerned about offending those we visit if we decline the offered temptation? Why do we never preach the myriad biblical references to gluttony? Why do we notice the speck in the eye of the clients we see on the streets and in our shelters, and yet ignore the log in our own eye? I proclaim from the pulpit Paul's words that “I can

do all things through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13) and yet I don't consistently practise what I preach. In my head I know that “His divine power has given (me) everything (I) need for a godly life ...” (2 Peter 1:3) but the emotions connected to this compulsive behaviour often convince me otherwise. I have often been guilty of allowing my stomach to be my god.

My journalled prayers frequently end with, “Oh, Lord, please don't give up on me”. I have long recognised that, for me, this is more a spiritual battle than a physical one, and felt it was one I was consistently losing. A pivotal moment in my journey was in August 2012. I read familiar words through eyes illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and I was moved to tears.

“This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God” (1 John 3:19-21). The voice of condemnation I heard in my head every day was not the voice of God. The voice of truth tells me that I am loved, holy and forgiven.

A Bible study written by Beth Moore called “Breaking Free” addresses the issue of being enslaved, and how to experience true freedom in Christ. She encourages her readers to accept the truth that “walking consistently does not mean walking perfectly”. But walking consistently does require obedience.

This is where I am today, recognising that I must consistently submit my will and life to God. I must approach this struggle “one day at a time”. God has clearly laid a path for me that I am to follow, and I must daily choose to be obedient. I am spurred on by the words of John



Wesley, who wrote: “The essential part of Christian holiness lies in giving your heart wholly to God.”

My heart is wholly committed to honouring God in my life. There will be days when I stumble, but that doesn't mean I have failed God, because he knows my heart. I continue to fight this spiritual battle. I am called to preach a message of hope, love and forgiveness, and I can't allow my addiction to make me sluggish and ineffective for my Lord. I am strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. I put on the full armour of God, so that I can take my stand against the devil's schemes (see Ephesians 6:11).

Food is a beautiful gift from God, intended for both sustenance and pleasure. But like any of God's gifts, Satan will do all he can to twist and pervert our perspective and enslave us from experiencing the full life Jesus came to give us.

“My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34). Jesus was nourished through submission to his Father's will; Jesus found satisfaction and fullness in obedience. With the dawning of each new day, this is also my prayer. •

Lieut Anne Holden serves as an officer in the Canada and Bermuda Territory. This article appeared at salvationist.ca



**WORTH
QUOTING.**

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. – **Mother Teresa**

WORDS

DAVID WOODBURY

The lessons of history.

Staying true to God-ordained mission

“THOSE THAT FAIL to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it,” said Winston Churchill. In the late 1970s, The Salvation Army began to explore and embrace the emerging church-growth philosophy. We were persuaded that we were a dying organisation and unless we adopted some extraordinary growth measures we would soon cease to exist.

It would seem that such a philosophy may well have been erroneous, since we were still a growing organisation right through until the late 1980s. Official statistics for NSW, Queensland and the ACT reveal the number of soldiers at the start of each decade: 1950 (10,257 soldiers); 1960 (11,200); 1970 (11,595); 1980 (12,271); Late 1980s (13,257).

From somewhere in the 1980s, officers were increasingly exposed to purportedly church-growth experts, more often than not from American, personality-centred mega-churches. Inordinate funds were spent on sending officers to some of these centres, mostly in the United States, to learn church-growth principles which would, we hoped, reverse the perceived decline in our organisation; a practice that continued for some decades. No doubt some officers benefited personally from the strategy; however, there was no measurable impact on the territory.

If this philosophy had been correct, then our soldiers roll would have continued to grow, however, quite the reverse is true. From around that time the soldiers roll went into freefall. From 13,257 soldiers in the late 1980s we have declined to 7880

by 2016 (around a 41 per cent decrease). Now while there may be some cultural issues present and given the fact that Papua New Guinea was separated from the Australia Eastern Territory in this period, the decline is still quite dramatic. Like any army around the world, be it military, secular or spiritual, our strength is measured in our enlisted personnel.

Some of the personality-centred church leaders we have extolled have turned out to be disappointing. One of the protagonists held up as an example of this successful growth movement was Robert Schuller. He was vaunted as a living example of how we might resurrect the perceived decline in The Salvation Army. His TV ministry, *The Hour of Power*, along with his opulent Crystal Cathedral, marked his philosophy out with all the characterisations of American excesses and consumerism. However, like many organisations, based on a personality the whole empire crumbled amidst bitter family squabbling, his church filed for bankruptcy in 2010 and his Crystal Cathedral was sold off to the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1980, personally committed to church-growth principles, along with other officers from this territory I attended a self-funded church-growth seminar at Paul Yongi Cho’s church, the Yoido Full Gospel Church, in Seoul, Korea, then the largest church in the world. The most crucial lesson I learned from this is that **not all concepts are transferable between church and/or national cultures.**

There has been a predominant influence exerted on us from the American megachurch movement that needs to be challenged. American and Australian cultures may look the same on the surface, but there are significant and crucial differences between them. The words of the two national anthems highlight our cultural differences. The *Star Spangled*

Banner with its “bombs bursting in the air”; and *Advance Australia Fair* with its “golden soil and wealth for toil”. Not only are our national cultures different, but also our church cultures. Not all concepts are transferable.

Perhaps the time has come for some painful and candid self-examination and an admission that in pursuing American mega-church philosophy, we simply got it wrong, in spite of our best intentions. It may well be that we were mesmerised by the spectacle of the immense. Numbers and size do not necessarily demonstrate God’s blessing on a spiritual organisation.

As we seek to unite the two Australian territories and reposition The Salvation Army for the future, what is needed is that we are true to our roots and our calling. It is unlikely we can go past General John Gowans’ triad; The Salvation Army was created to achieve three very definite things. It was created to save souls, to grow saints, and to serve suffering humanity, and Gowans was to add: “If we stop doing any one of those three The Salvation Army will cease to be The Salvation Army.”

Perhaps it is time that we stopped looking to other denominations and perceived experts, mimicking their philosophies and their practices, and started looking to the history and the essence of our own movement and our own people, if we are to be true to our God-ordained mission. •

**This article reflects dynamics found in NSW, Queensland and the ACT. Statistics in Australia’s other states have been difficult to locate, as the The Salvation Army Year Book does not record soldiership statistics in these states until around 2000.*

Major David Woodbury is a retired officer and former editor of Salvation Army publications.

Mailbox.



ENTERTAINING ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT

I was particularly interested in the letter from Captain Troy Pittaway regarding refugees (March edition of *Others*).

For six years in the 1980s, my wife and I were working with migrants and refugees. There were many examples of the serious needs of refugees.

The Victorian Council of Churches arranged for the showing of the film *The Killing Fields* during Refugee Week in September 1988. The Cambodian doctor, Haing S. Nur (who was in the film) was present and said: "Everything you see in this film is true, only it was worse than that!"

In that week I wrote a poem, which read:

The Newcomer

*They call him wog or slop or black,
They say we ought to send him back.
They say he's no place here at all,
They saw him last week in a brawl!*

*He's taking over every job,
Better take care - it's you he'll rob!
He can't be trusted, should be banned,*

Before long he will rule our land!

*But he's a refugee, you see,
And he's just seeking to be free,
He's run from persecution cruel
And seeks a land that has just rule.*

*We pride ourselves on being fair.
We say we're folks that really care.
We'll help a lame dog or a stall
And give a helping hand to all.*

*We reckon it's the Aussie way
That everyone can have his say;
We'll treat our neighbour really good,
We always want that understood!*

*But do we really mean "fair go"?
Or do we just imagine so?
When all the chips are out and down,
Are we "real white men" or just brown?*

(last line not referring to skin colour)

In one commentary, it suggests that the author of the letter to the Hebrews could be Barnabas (son of encouragement). In Hebrews 13:1-2, it states, "Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

So my wife and I found it to be!

Major Lionel Ling



OBJECTING TO 'OBSCURE' ARMY TERMINOLOGY

The widespread use of the term "Salvos" is obscuring our identity as The Salvation Army and as Salvationists.

As a committed Salvationist, I cannot personally accept the nomination of Salvo. The allied volunteers and employees should not cause an expanded description of the mission of The Salvation Army.

I also find it hard to accept an objective of transforming Australia "one life at a time".

I remember many times when effective preaching has resulted in the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit becoming evident. This activity of the Holy Spirit needs our constant prayer.

J.L Berry

WORDS
CLAIRE HILL

Salvos ready to pioneer.

Innovation is in our DNA

*Wherever there is hardship or injustice,
Salvos will live, love and fight,
alongside others,
to transform Australia one life at a time
with the love of Jesus.*

– *National Vision Statement*



When I look into the future, I see The Salvation Army in Australia courageously breaking new ground. Our vision is big and bold, and in order to see it fulfilled

we will need creativity and outside-of-the-box thinking,” says Commissioner Floyd Tidd, National Commander of The Salvation Army in Australia. He sees innovation as part of The Salvation Army’s DNA.

“The Salvation Army has always been a movement with a pioneering spirit. Some of our most impactful work in Australia has occurred in an innovative space.”

The Salvation Army’s commitment to transforming Australia one life at a time has often resulted in the breaking of new ground. For instance, in 1890, during the Depression, the Salvos established Australia’s first employment bureau; in 2004, we set up Australia’s first centre to address problem

gambling; and in 2005, we established a first-of-its-kind, award-winning law firm, using profits from business clients to fund free legal assistance for those who could not otherwise afford it.

At the commencement of The Salvation Army’s national transformation journey in Australia, “Increased Innovation” was articulated as one of six core objectives. Further emphasis has since been placed on the importance of innovation, with “We will pioneer” announced as one of the four strategic pillars in our National Strategy.

Reflecting on this particular strategic pillar, National Chief Secretary, Colonel Mark Campbell, says, “We want to improve our capacity to think differently and act strategically by building on our movement’s best and brightest people and ideas. And we want to form partnerships that help us do that. We are looking to embed innovation



throughout the Army. We've seen that in order to keep transforming the lives of Australians, we need to keep transforming ourselves."

Colonel Campbell adds that as we capitalise on the huge potential for innovation, we will "see even more lives transformed with the love of Jesus".

Cabinet Secretary for Business Support, Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Evans, agrees. "This national transformation journey provides a unique opportunity for us to innovate, and we are grabbing hold of that," he says. "I see us deploying national systems and processes that will enable and support frontline mission in ways we have never done before."

So how has the national transformation journey helped us see increased innovation so far?

According to Commissioner Tidd, "much of the work so far has been about preparing the soil, addressing the drivers and barriers to innovation within territories, divisions and departments: breaking down silos, connecting different parts of The Salvation Army that were previously disconnected. It's taken some time, but we're doing the groundwork to help ensure that innovation will

be our habit, our normal behaviour going forward."

In addition to this groundwork, The Salvation Army in Australia has committed to implementing a "centrally coordinated, geographically dispersed" model within business and support services. We will locate people where they can best support frontline mission, utilising technology in our interactions so that we can accommodate a nationwide footprint.

"God has positioned The Salvation Army at the forefront of our nation as a key solution designer to assist in the solving of complex problems," says Commissioner Tidd. "I am excited by what lies ahead of us. The Salvation Army will continue to pioneer and innovate to ensure all Australians can discover the full and abundant lives that Christ has come to bring."

**Increased Innovation is one of the six 'whys' of the national transformation journey. Over the coming months, we will continue to look at these six 'whys' in turn.*

Claire Hill is the Communications Coordinator for the Transition Support Team



WORDS

RICHARD MUNN

The ministry of reconciliation.

Ahead of Reconciliation Week later this month, we look at the model of racial unity found in Scripture

In the immediate aftermath of World War One, General Bramwell Booth, son of The Salvation Army's founders and its second international leader, embarked on a daring countercultural initiative to raise substantial funds for the defeated German people, who were suffering from harsh international sanctions. British Salvationists had lost their fathers, husbands and sons by the thousands in the "war to end all wars." And yet, here was General Bramwell seeking money for a compassionate cause.

He travelled to Berlin and was greeted with great national affection. In the cauldron of that context he made the statement: "Every land is my fatherland, for all lands are my Father's." Either instinctively, or by precise calculation, Bramwell embodied the ministry of reconciliation, the commission of Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The phrase is renowned: *panta ta ethne*, all people groups.

The matter is currently at the forefront of our thinking, when it seems that rabid ethnic nationalism is inexorably on the rise.

PERVASIVE AND COMPLEX

Let us not be naive or sanctimonious; racial prejudice

is inherently present in us all, to some degree. So, like any primal sin, it must be intentionally countered and rigorously fought.

- Racism is pervasive and complex, described as racial prejudice plus power.
- Racism may be hidden, yet embedded in institutional life.
- Racism can be present even though people avoid using direct racist terminology.
- Racism can be invisible to the dominant ethnicity, yet plainly evident to the disempowered ethnicity.
- Racism can be so entrenched in institutions and culture that people unintentionally and unwittingly perpetuate racial division.

In addition, however, racism can also be overt, systematic and cruel. While ethnic hostilities, rivalries and atrocities are too numerous to adequately list, they are epitomised by the African slave trade, the Nazi supremacist movement, the Holocaust, South African apartheid, the Indian untouchable castes, the Japanese-Korean-Chinese ▶



- conflicts, the Rwandan genocide, the treatment of Indigenous people in North America and Australia, and the abuse of trafficked workers in oil-rich Saudi nations.

THE HUMAN RACE

It is important to note that the category of “race” has no scientific basis. Genetically and biologically, Anglo-Saxons, Asians, Africans, Latinos, etc., are identical. The idea of different races is a social construction, one created a century ago in the dubious science of eugenics. In contrast, the Bible refers to people groups, distinguished by language, culture and geographic boundaries. We can affirm: the only race is the human one.

The distinguishing characteristic of humans is that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. This divine likeness is unique among the created order and comes from the “breath of God” in us (see Genesis 2:7). In multi-ethnic Athens, Paul asserts the unity of the human race: “From one person God made all nations who live on earth” (Acts 17:26 *CEV*).

At the heart of racism is the original sin of idolatry. Rather than seeing the spiritual image of God in each other, we are drawn to a physical image. It is a

short line from this racial idolatry to racial pride, the belief that the people with my physical features are inherently superior to people with different physical features. This is exemplified in the egregious “curse of Ham” (see Genesis 9), constructed to justify the enslavement of Africans by Europeans and North Americans.

And yet, early in Scripture, we read of tribal conflict, long-standing rivalries, cultural subjugation and, indeed, ethnic cleansing. This is especially complex when intertwined with the story of the people of

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The Bible refers to people groups, distinguished by language, culture and geographic boundaries. We can affirm: the only race is the human one.

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Israel, the ethnicity central to the salvation story. The people of Israel beginning with the people known as Hebrews, God’s “treasured possession,” to the fact that Jesus was born and crucified a Jew, Scripture records the unique role embodied by the

people of Israel. God choosing to act in history includes the reality that Hebrew culture, history, names, literature, cuisine, indeed, the very soil and geographic boundaries of Israel, are forever synonymous with the salvation story.

We can see how readily this selection could be interpreted as a divine affirmation of ethnic superiority. This includes a voice within Judaism as well as misappropriation by other people self-identifying as the “new Israel” to sanction racist ideology – North American slave owners and Afrikaners in South Africa. This is heinous misinterpretation.

Rather, Scripture records that the people of Israel were chosen because of their insignificance (see Deuteronomy 7:7), that the people fleeing the Egyptians were in fact ethnically mixed (see Exodus 12:38) and that covenant fidelity is to be the guiding principle of this special relationship (see Exodus 19:5). God says bluntly, “Are not you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?” (Amos 9:7).

JEW AND GENTILE

The Jewish-Gentile relationship is present early, where God says to Abraham, “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3). Jesus exemplifies this grace in his interactions with the Samaritan woman, the Roman centurion and the Canaanite woman. A central figure in his teaching is the “good Samaritan,” described as a “neighbour” (see Luke 10). *Panta ta ethne* is then powerfully reinforced with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost when “God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven” each hear the wonders of God declared by the Galileans in their own native tongue – 15 distinct ethnicities and regions are listed (see Acts 2).

The issue is so real and earthy that the tension between Jews and Gentiles continues as a major theme in the New Testament. A deep biblical principle emerges: Jews do not cease to be Jews; Gentiles do not cease to be Gentiles. Ethnic differences, however, are to be no barrier to fellowship in Christ.

This is not easily realised. Paul – a Jew and Roman citizen called to serve Gentiles – later has to convince the Jerusalem Council of the validity of his Gentile converts (see Acts 15). He prevails, and this ethnic inclusiveness becomes formally sanctioned, one of the most significant decisions in all of Scripture.

Without it, Christianity would have undoubtedly remained an obscure Jewish sect. The template is set for resolution – a *panta ta ethne* vision of the kingdom of heaven.

CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

The scattering of the nations (see Genesis 10) and the Abrahamic promise (see Genesis 12) represent a theme that permeates all of Scripture – the global, multi-ethnic reconciliation plan of God. It is quite certain that in a mysterious way we shall retain our ethnic identities in heaven. The Revelation image is one where John sees a multitude “from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne” (Revelation 7:9). This is the consummation of history and continues the same unity Paul exhorts in his epistles; as such it provides a model for us to strive toward now.

Given our broken human tendency toward national mistrust and tribal conflict, this biblical view of ethnic unity stands sharply distinct. Followers of Jesus Christ now find essential unity in him, rather than in culture and ethnicity. Such a way of thinking and relating is a powerful force for good.

FIGHTING RACISM

Racism negatively affects everyone. The recipients experience fundamental rejection and disempowerment. Perpetrators function from fear and ignorance and experience the natural self-loathing that comes from spreading hatred. Wider society experiences hostilities and reduced productivity. Oppressed people groups invariably experience poor health and housing services, reduced life expectancy, lower employment opportunities, lower high school graduation rates, increased homelessness and more incidents of violence.

The Salvation Army, not unaware of internal susceptibilities, desires to make and encourage efforts to challenge and overcome racism wherever it exists. This is for individual Salvationists, to respect ethnic and racial diversity; and for the worldwide Army, seeking to influence broader societies. Thank you, Bramwell. Every land is our fatherland, for all lands are our Father's. ●

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Colonel Richard Munn is the Secretary for Ethics and Theology in the USA Eastern Territory. This article first appeared in *Salvationist* magazine (Canada and Bermuda Territory).

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WORDS
BILL SIMPSON

Let's hear it for our volunteers.

Doorknock appeal a time to celebrate

Salvation Army corps and centres are being encouraged to treat their Red Shield Appeal volunteers to a big celebration during this year's doorknock collection later this month. The enthusiasm is coming from energetic Community Fundraising Director Andrew Hill, who is a self-confessed fan of getting The Salvation Army out into the community.

"This is the one big event of the year that we can get out and meet our community and do something helpful for fellow Australians in need," he says. "It's what The Salvation Army does. This year, 70,000 volunteers will come with us around the country. That is a great cause for a celebration."

Andrew is suggesting that once all volunteers have returned with their collections, corps buildings and centres be turned into party venues. If celebrations can't be held straight away, then plan for them at some other time, he says. "But, please, make sure that your volunteers know that they are appreciated," is Andrew's plea.

"Volunteer collectors are crucial to the success of the Red Shield Appeal and need to be appreciated and celebrated,"



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- 01. Behind-the-scenes volunteers in the kitchens always do a wonderful job on Red Shield door-knock weekend.
- 03. Thirty years after her first Red Shield collection as a 12-year-old, Robyn Lewis now heads up The Salvation Army's Fundraising and Public Relations in North Queensland.
- 02. Sausage sizzles are always popular with volunteers after a day of collecting for the Red Shield Appeal.

adds Andrew. “Make absolutely sure that they know they have made a magnificent contribution to assisting their fellow Australians who are struggling. If they raise say \$100, let them know what that \$100 will do to help somebody who desperately needs it. Let them know about the difference they will make to somebody’s life; that they are part of something much bigger.

“We want our volunteers to walk away from their collecting saying, ‘Wow! That was great. I made a difference.’”

It’s the experience of Robyn Lewis, who, as a community volunteer, participated in her first Red Shield Appeal as a 12-year-old in Townsville and three years later, after connecting further with The Salvation Army, connected with Christ and became a senior soldier of the Townsville Riverway Corps. Today, almost 30 years after her first Red Shield Appeal collection, Robyn is The Salvation Army’s Fundraising and Public Relations Manager for North Queensland.

“We want our volunteers to walk away from their collecting saying, ‘Wow! That was great. I made a difference.’”

“I remember my first doorknock as if it was yesterday,” Robyn told us for a previous article. “There was so much activity. It was so exciting to be part of it. It was exhausting. We were tired and hungry, but back at the corps there were all of these people with food and drinks for us. They were so welcoming. I felt like one of the most important people in the world.”

That, says Andrew, is exactly how he would love every volunteer to feel. “For us – The Salvation Army – our volunteers *are* the most important people in the

world,” he says. “We want them to know that and a celebration is a great way for us to show them.”

This year’s public collection target nationally is \$7.5 million. The total Red Shield Appeal target for 2018, which includes business and regular givers and donors, is \$73 million. Appeal organisers are hopeful of reaching the target. “An appeal like this takes a huge effort,” says Andrew. “A lot of work goes in from a lot of people – from headquarters, through committees to corps. It is a vital time for our branding; for us to win new supporters. We receive huge media coverage. But it is getting harder. People’s time is in demand on many levels. Charities are always trying hard to capture the minds and hearts of volunteers to help. I think The Salvation Army stands tall in all of this. We bat above average.”

He suggests The Salvation Army’s ability to attract quality community leaders to head appeal committees at all levels is still a “secret” to success. “Our records show that where we have community leaders heading our committees, we are able to collect double what we would if corps did this on their own. Community leaders are able to reach deeper and wider into communities because of their influence.”

The official doorknock collection this year is 26-27 May, but local groups are encouraged to collect at the most appropriate time for them during May, subject to state regulations. “We know,” says Andrew, “that Sunday morning, which has been our traditional time of collecting, is now not necessarily the best time. Maybe it’s best for some areas to do their collecting on Sunday afternoon or on Saturdays or late afternoons during the week. We recommend that each local area work out what best works for them.”

Volunteers can register at doorknock.salvos.org.au •

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for *Others*



WORDS

GENERAL ANDRÉ COX

An incredible five-year journey.

Leading our worldwide Army
a life-changing experience

It has been an incredible privilege and a significant challenge to have been able to serve as the international leader of The Salvation Army. A five-year term seems to fly by at a tremendous rate of knots and still, in some respects, it is a long time. I can certainly attest to the fact that there is never a dull moment!

Without doubt, Commissioner Silvia and I have been privileged to travel and see the Army at work. God willing, we hope that by 2 August we will have been able to visit every territory, command and region where the Army is present. It would require more than a five-year term to see the work in all 128 countries.

The thing that stands out clearly for us is the fact that The Salvation Army is still effective, strong and growing in places where we have remained true to our unique and God-given calling. We struggle in some places when we deviate from our holistic mission, which is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to

meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

When these two aspects of our mission are evident, whether it be in a corps or a social centre or program, lives are being changed and transformed. It is a model that still functions well after 153 years of our history. Where we have divided or separated the mission, it does not work.

It has to be said that in some places, there is a danger of disconnecting the mission from our ministry. There are soldiers in corps who have never engaged in any kind of social service or in providing practical support to people in need.

Sadly, there are still places where we have more non-Salvationist volunteers who are out on the streets doing Salvation Army ministry than our own uniformed Salvationists, who actually signed a covenant that they are called to this kind of sacrificial service. Corps that do not have a clear expression of social care ▶

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As I prepare to leave office I believe in a great future for the Army, but that future will only be ours if we remain true to our calling – faithful, diligent, active and mobilised in fulfilling our God-given mission.
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► and outreach in the communities in which they serve, struggle for a sense of identity and purpose that should set us apart from other denominations. Social centres and programs that have a weak focus on spiritual life and development are not as effective in the transformation of lives.

SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

As the time approaches for me to hand over to my successor, I express a word of heartfelt thanks to Salvationists and volunteers around the world for the countless examples of faithful, sacrificial service we've been privileged to witness first-hand. The Army is still as needed and relevant today all around the world because of what you do day in and day out.

While many things have been accomplished in these past five years, I am mindful of the fact that we are not in a sprint. Our work never ends and never will, until Jesus comes again. We are, therefore, in an ultramarathon relay race and the time is fast approaching for the handover of the baton to my successor. I pray that he or she will experience the incredible power of prayer support from all around the world, as has been our experience.

I am happy for history and those who come after us to determine what, if anything, is noteworthy in this five-year journey.

One of the questions that those who were nominated for election in the 2013 High Council were asked was: "Describe The Salvation Army on your last day in office. How would you as the General bring this about?"

In response, I stated: "I see a vibrant, committed, effective and joyful Army, rooted and confident in the Word of God and on its knees. I see an Army that truly reflects the mind of Jesus in our commitment to the poor and the marginalised. I see an Army that practises what it preaches from the top leadership down, an Army that is a visible and living example of Kingdom values. I see



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While many things have been accomplished in these past five years, I am mindful of the fact that we are not in a sprint. Our work never ends and never will, until Jesus comes again.
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an Army that values its youth where our young people feel that they have a voice. I see an Army with strong, relevant and streamlined administrative structures and a much more effective use of our financial and material resources. I see an Army where all cultures are equally accepted and celebrated through the spiritual ties that bind us all together. I see an Army that shuns the dependency culture.”

Little could I have imagined when addressing the High Council, how dramatically the world would change for me and my wife on 3 August 2013, and how suddenly I needed to begin making a dream a reality. Throughout my term I have kept returning to this vision, which



◀ General André Cox speaks to a vast congregation during the Boundless international congress at The O2 arena in London in 2015. The General described the congress as among the most defining experiences of his tenure as world leader of The Salvation Army.

has shaped and defined the agenda that I have pursued.

DEFINING EXPERIENCES

If I were asked to highlight some of the things that stand out for me, I would include the following, recognising that it is both difficult and dangerous to highlight specific points with the fear of forgetting or overlooking others.

Perhaps the most defining experience for me was the run-up to and follow-on from the 2015 Boundless international congress. How important it is for us to be mindful of our spiritual relationship with God and, undoubtedly, this was an important event in the spiritual life of each of us, but also of the Army as a whole. We still see vibrancy, life and new spiritual growth as a result around the world.

Coupled to this has been the important legacy of Boundless, which has seen us seize the initiative and take every opportunity to be a fully mobilised Army wherever we serve. How vital it is that we are not introverted and inward looking but always reaching out with the most precious, most important message of God's salvation to a world that is lost and ever sinking further in sin. Our founder William Booth said: "When The Salvation Army ceases to be a militant body of red-hot men and women whose supreme business is the saving of souls, I hope it will vanish utterly."

Of course, the Accountability Movement has been a strong focus during these past five years. It recognises that strong structures and effective use of resources are not an end in themselves but are vital because they facilitate mission. The Accountability Movement ensures greater transparency, more inclusion, more space for participation and accountability, more delegation and distribution of leadership, and a more equitable access to communications and technology.

This enables us to better connect internationally and foster stronger, safer relationships, ensuring that for many years to come the claim to operate in each country where The Salvation Army is present is legitimate and secure. I am particularly pleased to have seen the finalisation and the beginning of the roll-out of the new International Financial and Accounting Standards, which bring the Army into high-quality best practice when it comes to accounting for our financial resources.

KINGDOM VALUES

More than half the territories have taken or are taking a serious look at their governance structures and this will ensure that we maintain the highest standards, reflecting Kingdom values in the way we operate and manage the mission around the world. More importantly, it ensures that we keep the main thing the main thing when it comes to the delivery of our God-given mission.

We now have in place a robust framework for child protection and, moving forward, we need to ensure we work diligently and live up to the commitments and statements that we make in our public policy. At times, we have struggled with impact measurement. Clearly, we are beginning to make progress in tracking lasting outcomes rather than just collecting statistics. We want to see the Army having an impact and making a real and lasting difference in the world.

While much has been achieved in this five-year period, still much remains to be done. There are many battles to face and trials to overcome until we experience the final victory when Jesus returns. Undoubtedly, there are significant challenges ahead for the international Army, some of which will certainly face my immediate successor. We will need every ounce of wisdom, grace and courage that the Holy Spirit can provide in order to make the right decisions.

As I prepare to leave office I believe in a great future for the Army, but that future will only be ours if we remain true to our calling – faithful, diligent, active and mobilised in fulfilling our God-given mission. You will be in my thoughts and prayers now and in days to come, as I will look from afar with a sense of great anticipation to see what God will do with his great Salvation Army! •

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 General André Cox has been world leader of The Salvation Army since August 2013. He will step down from the position on 2 August this year.



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RISE
AS
ONE**

General William Booth launched the first Self Denial Appeal in 1886. Please give one week's salary to support the appeal.

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www.selfdenial.info



WORDS

BILL SIMPSON

‘She just taught me how to be happy’.

Moving tribute to a matron who changed an abandoned girl’s life

Pamela Rickard was only six and she was scared when her father dropped her off at a Salvation Army children’s home. She was still recovering from the shock of her mother’s death. Now, with her father handing her over to somebody else, she felt abandoned. Fortunately for this little girl, she met a kind woman who would “teach her how to be happy” and help shape the rest of her life.

Fifty years on from her arrival at The Salvation Army East Camberwell Children’s Home in Melbourne, Pamela Rickard has remembered the kindness of the woman who turned her fears into happiness. Pamela’s remembrance was read at the thanksgiving service of Major Dawn Vale, who was promoted to glory in Melbourne in February.

Major (then Captain) Vale was matron of the children’s home when Pamela arrived. Pamela now lives in Western Australia. She read about Major Vale’s passing on a friend’s Facebook page. “I knew that somebody had to say something. She (Major Vale) was just such a wonderful person,” Pamela told us for this story.

In a message to Major Vale’s brother John and sister-in-law Adele, and read at the thanksgiving service, Pamela wrote: “Being a ‘home’ kid, you are supposed to have an unhappy childhood. Matron Captain Dawn Vale was fantastic and really helped.

“I was her pet. She used to take me home to her place for holidays with her family in Geelong. I went pea picking with her and her family. She allowed me to have

pet mice and to sell them to a pet shop for extra spending money. She just taught me to how to be happy.

“I managed to get her to return two right-foot sneakers to (a store) in Camberwell that I had stolen. I ended up with a left and right shoe! When I had mumps and later blood poisoning and gastro – all things a mum is supposed to do to look after you – Captain Vale did this for the 50 of us girls at the home.

“Thank you, Captain Vale. You changed me from feeling unwanted to feeling wanted. I love you, Captain Matron Dawn Vale.”

When we spoke to Pamela, now living near Perth, for this article, she told us that she lived at Salvation Army children’s homes in Melbourne from six until 18, when she completed a TAFE course and entered the workforce. Her life as a child at the homes was not just happy. “Try excellent,” she told us. “I told the kids at school that I was the only one among them who lived in a house with an in-ground swimming pool and three trampolines.”

Her life today remains “excellent”. She and husband Peter have been together for 28 years. They have a daughter. Pamela is employed as a specialist shoe fitter, an industry she entered as a young person in Melbourne.

She is also heavily involved in the horse-riding scene, again flowing from an early interest in Melbourne. Pamela is vice-president of the Adult Riding Clubs Association of Western Australia. She is a previous president.



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01. A recent photo of Pamela Rickard with Shirley Gorrie, a member of a foster family Pamela lived with as a teenager.
02. Pamela Rickard (left) at 14, with sister Gail (right) at a Salvation Army children’s home in Melbourne.

Her life motto is: “If you don’t like the past, change your future.” She didn’t like her childhood before going to the children’s home. “(Major) Dawn Vale made it possible for me to change my future. My life has been great ever since – and still is,” she said. ●

Bill Simpson is a contributing writer for Others

WORDS

PETER WOODBURY

Multiculturalism a taste of heaven.

Auburn Salvation Army in Sydney has been Salvationist Peter Woodbury's spiritual home since the late 1940s. He's seen the corps change from a traditional Anglo-Saxon community to a vibrant multicultural corps.



◀ **The Auburn Salvation Army band circa 1960s with Peter Woodbury holding a trombone (far right).**

I HAVE BEEN WORSHIPPING at Auburn Salvation Army for many years; in fact, 70 years. My mum and dad brought me there when I was just a baby. As I grew up through The Salvation Army I became a bandsman and also a member of the choir, or what we would call the songster brigade. The Army, as a place of worship and also a charity organisation, proved to be part of my life that was very meaningful growing up.

We had a Young People's Sergeant Major (YPSM), that I guess would be a youth leader by today's standard, who undertook to teach us something about what Jesus Christ meant in The Salvation Army, and indeed in the lives of the people of the Army. He was instrumental in leading me to find Jesus Christ as my personal saviour, and although I didn't fully understand the implication of this, as I was only about 11 or 12, those early years through that particular YPSM stood me in good stead.

Just after the Second World War, in the 1940s and '50s, The Salvation Army was very traditional. The corps at Auburn has changed over the years because of the advent of people arriving from various countries in the world (Auburn is the most multicultural area in Sydney). This wasn't something that we had experienced, particularly myself in the early years of my life when the corps was an Anglo-Saxon culture. It wasn't easy at the time, because over a period of many years we had become used to our

type of worship, and now we had to accept others. But this we did gleefully, because I felt that God would have us accept people from all countries.

Many people in our congregation today have endured torment and torture and have come to Australia as refugees. And so, we had to accept the fact that they are coming from an entirely different background. This has opened my eyes a lot to people from these nations and I see things from a different perspective, something that has given me a greater understanding of human nature and I realise that God has created everyone equal no matter where they have come from.

We made friends with many of these people. Sometimes we haven't been able to pronounce their names because it was difficult for us, but we have come to understand something of where they have come from and we made very special friendships with them.

I'm sure God sees us here at Auburn as an extension of heaven. Here, we have a small part of what we can expect in heaven when we see people who are so friendly to each other; people dressed in traditional outfits worshipping in different ways. If you came one Sunday and heard and saw what goes on, I'm sure you'd want to come back. •

As told to The Salvation Army's multicultural department. A video of Peter Woodbury's story will be available online soon at others.org.au

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SONJA SOUTHWELL

A SAFE ARRIVAL

Review: Faye Michelson



Sonja Southwell has a vivid memory from when she was just five years old, that has remained with her throughout her life.

She recalls standing with her back against a wall, looking at the tops of tall palm trees, with a mountain surrounded by lush forests in the distance. The wall she leaned against was inside Banyu Biru Camp 10 and the year was 1944. It was the third camp in which the little girl, her sister and mother, Salvation Army officer Johanna van Kralingen, had been interned after Japan's invasion of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).

Southwell's memoir/biography, *A Safe Arrival*, is the compelling story of her family and particularly her parents, Ryer and Johanna van Kralingen, detailing their service as Salvation Army officers in Holland and Indonesia from the 1930s until the 1950s.

It is a Salvation Army story – Southwell and her husband, Ian, are retired Salvation Army officers – but it is also a story of the resilience of the human spirit. It shows how the triumph of faith over fear enabled her parents, two “ordinary” people, to perform extraordinary acts of bravery and compassionate service to others.

The author has meticulously researched her family's war experiences and the subsequent dangers of the Indonesian independence war, which delayed their release from the camp. Ryer, imprisoned while serving as a military chaplain, was separated from his wife and daughters during the war. Southwell writes a moving account of his traumatic experiences, faith and dedication to his fellow POWs,

based on his recollections, diary entries and anecdotes from those who knew him.

The inclusion of early photographs of the family, POW camps, war documents and images taken of them after they had repatriated to Australia gives a powerful, personal touch to the narrative. It's an important story, a poignant reminder of the brutal realities of war and the life-long effect it has on those who suffer through its horror.

Southwell writes that her parents had a plaque hanging in their living room that (translated from Dutch) said: “God has not promised us a calm journey, but a safe arrival.” They carried this maxim with them in hardship, separation and, above all, in faithful service in three continents. Their journey was not calm, but it is inspiring.

A Safe Arrival is available from Salvation Army Supplies in Melbourne (1800 100 018), Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (1800 634 209), online and as an eBook through Balboa Press and Amazon.

O2.

JOHN DICKSON

A DOUBTER'S GUIDE TO JESUS



After two millennia of spiritual devotion and more than two centuries of modern critical research, we still cannot fit Jesus into a box. He is destined to stretch our imaginations, confront our beliefs, and challenge our lifestyles for many years to come.

“Jesus the political rebel. Jesus the guru. Jesus the right-wing crusader. Jesus the left-wing activist. Jesus married-with-three-children-

then-divorced. Jesus who never lived. Whether through misinformation, wishful thinking, or prejudice – and sometimes all three – the Jesus of public imagination is often markedly different from the figure we find in our earliest sources. Our assumptions prove misleading,” writes author John Dickson.

A Doubter's Guide to Jesus is an introduction to the major portrayals of Jesus found in the earliest historical sources. Our best information points not to a tidy, monolithic Jesus, but to a complex, multi-layered, and, at times, contradictory figure. While some might be troubled by this, fearing that plurality equals incomprehensibility or unreliability, others take it as an invitation to do some rearranging for themselves, trying to make Jesus neater, more systematic and digestible.

In *A Doubter's Guide to Jesus: An Introduction to the Man of Nazareth for Believers and Skeptics*, readers will find themselves both disturbed and intrigued by the images of Jesus found in the earliest historical sources.

For more information about *A Doubter's Guide to Jesus* or to buy the book, go to doubtersguidetojesus.com

others

To see more reviews of books, music, television and film, go to:

others.org.au/reviews



Words Mark Hadley

BREATH

Rating: PG

Release Date: 3 May



BREATH IS THE STORY of every child's life. A baby's first gulp of air, and every one that follows, contribute to a journey of physical and spiritual maturity that will one day produce the adult. But it's not just air that makes the man. It's those other things we take in along the way, the friendships we inhale and the atmosphere we absorb, that can make the difference between a wise person and a fool. And learning to take a breath, when the world says act, is one of the most important lessons of all.

Breath is based on the Miles Franklin Award-winning novel by Australian icon Tim Winton. It centres on the relationship between two boys growing up in a remote corner of the West Australian coast. "Pikelet" is a thoughtful soul who finds a friendly alter-ego in his town's tearaway character, Loonie.

Pikelet's quiet home and reserved parents are a world away from Loonie's turbulent life at the town pub. Yet together the two teens probe the edges of their quiet world, daring each other to take on greater risks, in their charge towards manhood. They soon discover surfing, and with it the enigmatic Sando. This older, tousle-haired surfer is everything

the boys hope to be. Sando commands the quiet respect of the surfing community. He has surfed the world's biggest waves, won international acclaim, and now lives off the grid with his American wife, Eva. His unforced authority and hunger for life's extremes earn him guru status in Pikelet's and Loonie's minds. But is Sando really the wave that will lift them toward manhood, or the rip they must swim against?

Breath is a phenomenal book, and now a challenging film for young Australians and the parents who watch over them. It is the directorial debut for Australian actor Simon Baker, who also fills the wetsuit for the alluring Sando. Baker combined with American producer Mark Johnson to produce *Breath*, because he believed Winton's novel focused the forces that wrestle in a growing boy's heart. "Tim's book viscerally captures the restless curiosity and yearning for identity that often defines our coming of age," he says.

The risk-taking nature of surfing was so important to *Breath's* story, that Baker initiated a national search for surfers he could teach to act rather than actors who could surf. Newcomers Samson Coulter (Pikelet) and

Ben Spence (Loonie) bring a fresh, unfeigned energy to this coming-of-age tale. But for Baker, it wasn't just the friendships his heroes made, but the separations they chose as well. "Kids generally have this incredible unconditional love towards their parents," Baker says, "But there is that moment when your kid looks at you less adoringly and more to try and understand the person you are."

Pikelet's parents, played by Richard Roxburgh and Rachel Blake, are conservative and comfortable, even a little suffocating. Sando is exhilarating by comparison. In Winton's book, he tells Pikelet and Loonie the heart of big-wave riding is realising you're living an authentic life: "When you make it, when you're still alive and standing at the end, you get this tingly electric rush. You feel alive, completely awake and in your body. Man, it's like you've felt the hand of God."

It left me wondering how an average 9-to-5 parent could hope to compete with that sort of influence?

I am the father of three sons. I've discovered that when a boy is born, the most significant person in his life is his mother, and that relationship will form and reform for the rest of their lives. But there comes a time when a boy's attention moves off mum, and nothing is more important than to be, "like dad". I think all fathers would be happy if that stage lasted forever. However, as he matures, a boy begins to define himself more by contrasts than similarities. An inevitable distance grows between him and his father, based on what he determines to do differently. At that point, parents have two chief hopes.

Firstly, parents can pray the life-guides their boys choose for themselves are wise ones. Sando is an unwittingly dangerous choice for Pikelet because, in reality, he's



a man who hasn't come to terms with his own adulthood. His marriage to Eva is made brittle by his inability to sacrifice his yearnings for her needs. As the film rolls towards its high-risk conclusion, Pikelet becomes increasingly aware that Sando needs his young acolytes to justify his own choices. *Breath* manoeuvres Pikelet into a position where he has to choose what sort of man he is going to become – and this is where a parent's second hope comes into play.

Parenting isn't a casual affair. Responsible mums and dads carefully use those years leading up to that inevitable separation of personalities. They strive to instil in their sons and daughters the values that will help them make wise choices when they're not around. Every play-date is an opportunity to affirm compassion, every pack-up time a chance to teach responsibility. The Bible's book of Proverbs puts it this way: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6 *ESV*).

There are many valuable things I could teach my sons, and some of them actually emerge from Sando's mouth. But the same book of the Bible teaches me that, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom ...". That's not because God is scarier than any of the waves Pikelet and Loonie face, but because he is the creator of the swells and the boys who seek to master them. He perfectly comprehends both, and knows my sons' needs and longings better than they know themselves. If they can learn to trust him early, then I can rest assured no "Sando" is going to lead them astray. ■

“

Parenting isn't a casual affair. Responsible mums and dads carefully use those years leading up to that inevitable separation of personalities. They strive to instil in their sons and daughters the values that will help them make wise choices when they're not around.

”

Mark Hadley is the culture writer for *Others* and is one of Australia's leading Christian communicators

Chief summons High Council to elect new General

THE SALVATION ARMY'S Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, has formally summoned 111 qualifying officers to form the next High Council, commencing in London on 17 May. The sole purpose of this comprehensive gathering of international Salvation Army leaders is to elect the 21st General of The Salvation Army. The man or woman chosen in this process will take office on 3 August 2018, following the retirement of General André Cox who has held the post since 3 August 2013.

The High Council comprises all Salvation Army commissioners not on the retired list at the qualifying date, those officers who hold the appointment of territorial commander, and those who hold the appointment of territorial president of women's ministries.

Sixty-one of the 2018 High Council members will be first-time participants, and women will outnumber men by 59 to 52. As in 2013, the High Council will meet at the Renaissance Hotel in West London.

The High Council is convened by the Chief of the Staff, who will lead until a President and Vice President have been elected from among its members to oversee the prayerful and holy tasks leading to nom-



^ Former Territorial Commander of the Australia Eastern Territory, Commissioner James Condon, prays with General André Cox and Commissioner Sylvia Cox during the 2013 High Council.

inations and elections. Any active Salvation Army officer from the 128 countries in which the Army operates is eligible to be elected as General.

A public welcome to the members of the High Council will be held at Westminster in London, on Saturday 19 May. The occasion will also be the farewell salute to General

André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox (World President of Women's Ministries), with musical and multimedia tributes to their ministry and service in appointments around the world. The meeting will be streamed on Facebook Live ([sar.my/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sar.my)) and via the International Headquarters website (www.salvationarmy.org/highcouncil2018).

'There is a real sense that this is a God-bathed moment'

Commissioners James and Jan Condon, the now-retired former leaders of the Australia Eastern Territory, have been involved in High Councils to elect a new General of The Salvation Army, on two occasions. They have written a short reflection for Others, on what it is like to be part of such a significant occasion in the history of the Army.

IT WAS A REAL honour and privilege for us to attend two High Councils during our tenure as territorial leaders for the Australia Eastern Territory. But it is also a huge responsibility to be involved in electing the General of the international Salvation Army.

What impacted us was the amount of prayer and worship that is involved in the process. A chaplain is elected for the duration of the High Council and James had that privilege in 2013. There is also a spiritual day and usually a guest comes in to lead this. We had the privilege of sitting under the ministry of Commissioner Keith Banks.

The High Council is a very formal process and there is no rush to conclude it. Everything

is done in order and with dignity and bathed in prayer. Then the time comes to choose the individual whom you feel is the God-ordained person to be elected as the next General.

The voting takes time as well and when the final counting is complete the General's name is announced and again, amidst the congratulatory greetings, there is a real sense that this is a God-bathed moment – a very sacred time as the mantle of leadership is conferred on the elected person.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved in this process and also to make new friends from around the Army world. The internationalism of the Army is very special and celebrated.

Salvos play a starring role in campaign to end family violence

THE SALVATION ARMY has joined with individuals, groups and communities from around the world to partner with the Queensland Government in a unique campaign to help end violence.

The “One Million Stars to End Violence” project has received handmade stars from people in 15 different nations.

Queensland’s Museum of Brisbane created an installation from the stars that was on display in the city’s King George Square as part of Festival 2018 during the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Salvation Army centres that contributed to the project included Catherine Booth House in Darwin, a safe haven for women escaping domestic and family violence; Bayside Community Church in Brisbane; and the Maryborough Corps in Victoria.

“I got the idea at a kids camp last year when they were all making stars for craft,” said Captain Annita Allman, Maryborough Corps Officer. “We live in a disadvantaged community with a high level of domestic and general violence, so I thought this would be a good project to do in our corps.”

Captain Allman discussed the idea with the corps’ women’s group GIGGLES (Girls in God: growing, loving, eating and serving) who decided they would participate.

The group made approximately 100 stars, with many working on them at home as well.

“We saw it as a way to raise awareness of violence, something we could do to try to help end violence in our community, and an opportunity to be part of something ‘bigger,’” said Captain Allman.

At The Salvation Army’s Bayside Com-



^ The Maryborough Corps in Victoria joined in the “One Million Stars” project – (from left) Connie Whiley, Margaret Tansley and Captain Annita Allman. v Below: The installation that was in Brisbane’s King George Square as part of Festival 2018 during the Commonwealth Games.



munity Church in Brisbane, the women’s ministries team had been planning the year’s events at the beginning of last year and, as always, wanted to include a social justice-oriented day.

“Domestic violence is a huge issue in our community, as well as many others,” said Natalie Frame, Cadet-in-Appointment and Church Leader at Bayside. “We know

many people affected by it, so it’s always in the front of our minds. It fit our criteria of having a purpose and raising awareness, as well as being ‘crafty’ and fun.”

More than 40 corps and community women attended the event last April, some having responded to the advertisement for a “star weaving gathering” in the local newspaper.

At Darwin’s Catherine Booth House, most residents have experienced domestic and general violence firsthand, and wanted to contribute to the project.

Many of the residents made stars, using the opportunity to share their experiences, support each other, and also reach out to others through raising awareness of the extent of domestic violence and its impact on victims, their families and communities.

For more information on the initiative, go to: onemillionstars.net – **Simone Worthing**

Citizens or saints? Surrender 18 asks the hard questions

▼ ARE WE CITIZENS or saints ... or can we be both? That was the question asked at the Surrender 18 conference held at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre in Victoria on 23-25 March.

More than 1000 people attended to reflect on their lives and faith during keynote talks, workshops and conversations. The overarching theme was “Can we embody the way of Jesus now as citizens in our places and the world, yet hold an eternal identity as saints?”

Amanda Merrett, assistant to the social justice coordinator in the Australia Southern Territory, says Surrender is a safe place to explore deep questions.

“It was done really well by taking a bold approach and looking at the question from many different angles, such as what does it mean to be a citizen in your neighbourhood and globally, what does it mean to be saint, and how then do we engage with marginalised groups?” Amanda said.

As a Salvationist, Amanda felt the conference spoke to the heart of the Army’s vision, that we are called to bring the kingdom of God on earth, and that meant engaging with people on the margins.

“Talking with people who are asking the same questions about justice, discipleship and mission was invaluable. Surrender has



^ Brooke Prentis, a member of The Salvation Army’s National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group, facilitated a workshop entitled ‘Listening to guests of ancient hosts on ancient lands’ at this year’s Surrender conference.

really encouraged me to do mission in the hard places and it’s great to connect with others who are doing that, who understand you and who will pray for you,” she said.

Just Salvos was one of Surrender’s sponsoring partners, involved in organising and developing the theme in the lead-up to the conference and providing resources.

“Partners were invited to take part in one of the general sessions by sharing how someone in their tradition lived or lives as a citizen and a saint. Sandy Crowden (Territorial Indigenous Ministries Consultant) spoke about General Eva Burrows and her

life,” Amanda said.

The Salvation Army held two workshops. “Listening to guests of ancient hosts on ancient lands” was facilitated by Sandy Crowden and Brooke Prentis, pastor of The Salvation Army’s first Aboriginal church in 2012 and a member of The Salvation Army’s National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group.

Major Brendan Nottle, Corps Officer at Melbourne’s 614 Corps, also led a workshop on how to engage with those experiencing homelessness.

– Faye Michelson

Brisbane mission conference focuses on empowering leaders

▼ “EMPOWERING EVERY GENERATION” was the theme of MC 18 (Mission Conference 2018) held in Brisbane in March.

Officers, Salvationists and emerging leaders from all Army expressions around Queensland attended the conference, designed to empower leaders from every generation in effective ministry and innovation.

Keynote speakers were Commissioner Floyd Tidd, National Commander of

The Salvation Army in Australia; Lieutenant-Colonel Lyn Edge, National Secretary for Mission; Lieut-Colonel David Godkin, Queensland Divisional Commander; and Tim Costello, Chief Advocate of World Vision Australia and Baptist minister.

On the Saturday, delegates each chose four electives to attend from a broad range of options. These included: ministering to people with mental health challenges;

intergenerational ministry; youth ministry; leading people to Jesus; prophecy; and mission through serving the marginalised.

“The conference was most impactful, enlightening and great to get some new ideas about doing mission,” said Envoy Bill Hunter, leader at the Army’s God’s Sports Arena in Brisbane. “Also, a wonderful opportunity to mix with like-minded people and encourage and inspire each other.”

Tapping into creativity at national arts conference

BOX HILL CORPS in Melbourne was buzzing with creative energy as more than 240 musicians, artists and actors met for the 2018 Music and Creative Arts Conference.

Ken Waterworth, Southern Territorial Creative Arts Department director, said it was an inspiring time for participants, who came from both territories to attend the department's first national conference on 23-24 March.

"We have always had people come from all around the country but it was good to formalise it at this year's event," Ken said.

Friday evening's gala dinner was hosted by Colonels Graeme and Karen Rigley, with special guests from Canada, Len and Heather Ballantine. Entertainment by the Salvo Big Band set the scene for Saturday's schedule of artistic activities.

This was a time of exploring how to creatively communicate the gospel through workshops presented by a range of artists. These included songwriter Nathan Rowe, who worked with aspiring composers on developing their tunes; Cale Maclaren, founding director of 3d Arts Company, who provided ideas and tools for starting a drama ministry, and Captain Jo Brookshaw, demonstrating how to use visual arts in worship.

There were brass band workshops and master classes (led by Len Ballantine and John Collinson), vocal technique and acting workshops (Judd Field), and sessions on how to use media in your church (Vaughan Duck), worship leading (Pete Brookshaw), bringing scripture alive and unlocking creative prayer (Heather Ballantine).

Keynote speaker, Len Ballantine, well-known for his choral and brass compositions in The Salvation Army, spoke encouragingly on the importance of words in the music we play.

Participant Paul Prince said the conference provided an opportunity to learn in a creative space. For him, hearing about composing from a master like Len Ballantine, then attending a brass workshop held by him, was inspirational. "It was a great way to explore the use of the creative arts



^ Special guests from Canada – Len Ballantine (top) and Heather Ballantine (above right) – led creative sessions as part of the first national Music and Creative Arts Conference.

in worship and to also think about how we can enhance the way we do things in our own churches," he said.

The finale concert brought together these creative energies, featuring the Moreland City and Box Hill worship bands, the Melbourne Staff Songsters, Just Brass

Ringwood, the MCAC and Melbourne Contemporary choirs and artist Jo Brookshaw.

"For me, the most exciting part of the conference was the participants' enthusiasm for ministry and mission. It was a great time of fellowship," Ken said.

– Faye Michelson

Program to help violent fathers heal relationships

THE SALVATION ARMY and the University of Tasmania have launched an innovative project aimed at engaging fathers to improve relationships with their children, and to raise awareness that family violence can have lifelong impacts on children.

The project, called “Start Today Again – Fathers healing relationships after family violence”, was launched by the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner, at Government House in Hobart.

The project consists of a flexible and evidence-based training program and resource toolkit, including a training manual, multi-media film clips, books fathers can read to their children, books on family violence that professionals can use with fathers and children, and some children’s books on “kindness”, which is a key theme of the program. Designed for multiple uses and audiences, including community groups, the toolkit features a range of training program options.

Training days both in Tasmania and across Australia are available. Salvation Army program representatives from Western Australia, Victoria, NSW and Queensland, have already attended one-day seminars.

The main trainer is Dr Ron Frey, psychologist, former Queensland University of Technology lecturer and specialist in domestic violence, trauma, child abuse and prison work. The co-trainer is Don McCrae, Manager, Salvation Army Social Housing and Support Network Manager. For more information, go to starttodayagain@aus.salvationarmy.org
– Simone Worthing



^ The Salvation Army’s Lieutenant-Colonel Laurie Robertson with Delia Rickard, FIAP Advisory Group Chair, at the FIAP executive breakfast forum.

Salvos join forces for millions of people feeling the pinch around Australia

THE SALVATION ARMY is one of a growing group of Australia’s leading companies and not-for-profits that have joined forces to better support the nation’s 2.4 million people who are experiencing severe financial vulnerability.

“We constantly see the effects of financial hardship and financial exclusion, which can be long lasting and have impacts on many generations,” said Commissioner Floyd Tidd, the Army’s National Commander in Australia.

“Financial inclusion ensures that people have the capacity to engage fully in the social and economic life of their communities.”

More than 580 hands-on actions are being taken by 30 well-known organisations including banks, utilities, law firms, charities, governments and universities through the Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) program, developed to enable people who are struggling to make ends meet to take control to improve their lives through financial inclusion.

FIAP Advisory Group Chair, Delia Rickard, said the aim was to improve financial inclusion and resilience of clients, employees and others.

“The organisations involved employ over 250,000 people and serve almost 80 per cent

of the population, so the potential impact is enormous,” Ms Rickard said.

Good Shepherd Microfinance CEO and Chair of the FIAP Partnership Group, Adam Mooney, said an innovative range of significant actions had been successfully completed in the first of the four phases of the FIAP program.

“For example, Bank Australia is holding financial workshops for *Big Issue* magazine vendors and Energy Australia has staff dedicated to helping vulnerable people manage their power bills,” Mr Mooney said.

Swinburne University has “provided many rental assistance packages and hardship grants, as well as computers and transport vouchers to ease the financial burden for students in need,” says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Linda Kristjanson.

Economic modelling, outlined by leading economist Saul Eslake, shows that by working together over the longer term, the FIAP program can improve the lives of millions of people, save the government almost \$600 million, and boost the nation’s economic output by more than \$2.9 billion a year.

– Simone Worthing

Hymnfest – Coffs Harbour’s unique ministry in music

IN THESE DAYS of great change, The Salvation Army is using all sorts of methods and contemporary music to reach out to others about God.

One great and urgent need is that older people are grieving for the much-loved and grand old hymns of “The Christian Faith”, which are so rich and deep in spiritual meaning.

In 2013, myself, Irene Austin, and Errol and Heather Grice, all of Coffs Harbour Corps in NSW, felt strongly called by God to meet this particular need. HymnFest was commenced, which is now held twice a year on a Sunday afternoon. There are four brackets of hymn singing, and a few appropriate musical items and organ solos. Many people from all over the district attend, some travelling long distances, even from interstate.

The unique side of HymnFest is that it is a combination of old and new – the singing of the grand old hymns, plus the use of exciting computer technology to access and play magnificent virtual pipe organs from some of the great churches and cathedrals around the world. Singing the hymns to the accompaniment of these organs is a thrilling



^ Coffs Harbour hall is always near full for the Hymnfest gathering, which is held twice a year. The next event is on Sunday 20 May.

and deeply moving experience.

Salvationists at Coffs Harbour acknowledge that HymnFest is God’s doing. They praise and thank God that he has made possible and entrusted them with this special and unique ministry in music, which he is using for his glory and the blessing, encouragement and inspiration of many people.

A video of HymnFest on 22 October 2017,

which saw 220 people present, has been produced and is available. For information about the video and HymnFest, please phone (02) 6658 9683.

The next HymnFest will be on Sunday 20 May at 2.30pm. Why not plan a trip to beautiful Coffs Harbour for the weekend, to attend HymnFest?

– **Major Don Austin**

Lieut-Colonel Evans to lead Moral and Social Issues Council

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DONNA EVANS has taken up the additional appointment of Moral and Social Issues Council (MASIC) Chair. She has been serving as Vice Chair of the Council for the past year.

Lieut-Colonel Evans, whose primary appointment is National Head of Officer Personnel, replaces Dr Graeme Young as Chair.

“MASIC is a group of thinking Salvos from various walks of life, who meet consistently throughout the year from all over Australia,” she explained.

“MASIC grapples with thinking through difficult issues within Australia; produces short, written, pastoral responses to these



^ Lieut-Colonel Donna Evans took on her new role as MASIC Chair on 29 March.

issues; updates The Salvation Army’s Positional Statements as required; and endeavours to contribute to what The Salvation Army might be saying in the public arena.

“We are also asked to advise the National Commander and Cabinet on certain issues and are tasked with encouraging all Salvos to think through moral issues in an informed and ethical way.”

Lieut-Colonel Evans sees her role as “capturing the wisdom and expertise of firstly the members of MASIC, but also Salvos across the nation where possible; and keeping focus on the issues that really need our attention.” MASIC meets every two months, either in a face-to-face meeting or online. Between meetings, MASIC members work together on various projects via email. The council also gathers annually for a national conference.

– **Simone Worthing**

Award recipient says age is no barrier to service

GRAEME JACOBS, the 2018 recipient of the Isabel Gale Memorial Award presented at the Victoria Seniors Rally in March, has this advice for older Australians – “refuse to be sidelined”.

“The Bible never sees age as a barrier to effective service,” Graeme said. “As the psalmist says, ‘Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green (Psalm 92:14).’”

The award is given each year to a senior who contributes “above and beyond” to seniors’ ministries or to The Salvation Army generally or to someone younger than 50 who works to advance the life and ministry of seniors within the Army.

Graeme has been an active part of Maryborough Corps in country Victoria with his wife Aileen since 1972.

“We were involved in band, songsters, Sunday school and youth group leadership. For several years I was corps cadet guardian, then in 1978 appointed Corps Sergeant Major, a role I filled for 26 years,” he said.

“I was also the coordinator of the pastoral-care scheme. Brass banding has been a part of my life since 11, and I’m the bandmaster of our small band at Maryborough.”



^ Graeme Jacobs speaks to the audience after being presented with the Isabel Gale Memorial Award by Lieutenant-Colonel Debra Stevens at the Victoria Seniors Rally.

In 2003, after 31 years of teaching, Graeme retired – and life is still busy.

His citation in part read: “He has served The Salvation Army at corps, division and territorial level with creativity, humility and distinction ... he visits folk at home and in hospital, bringing words of comfort, cheer and hope during sickness, tragedy and loss. He has done more behind the scenes with people than we will ever know.”

As well as heading up the Army’s Historical Society of the then-Northern Victoria

Division, he has coordinated the corps’ Friday Fellowship for over 50s for the past seven years. Graeme says his involvement with this group has highlighted to him how much seniors have to contribute to their corps and communities.

The award honours Brigadier Isabel Gale, who left a legacy of friendship and ministry through Red Shield Friendship Clubs (later called Companion Clubs) to the over 50s that continues today.

– Faye Michelson

Salvos pledge to ‘transform Australia’ during vision booster sign-up

THOUSANDS OF SALVOS across Australia have signed a Vision Commitment card, pledging to “live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus”.

The pledges were made on the weekend of 18-19 March at the end of a six-week “Vision Booster” campaign, which involved corps, missions and social expressions focusing on each line of The Salvation Army Australia’s new national vision statement.

#Livelovefight

National Commander, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, says the weeks and months ahead will be critical for the momentum of the vision to grow.

“Although the official booster campaign is over, I believe the boost to continue living our vision will come from one another as

we share the stories of the impact and lives transformed by the love of Jesus,” he said.

“There is a palpable excitement across the nation as we chat with Salvos living out the vision in their local settings. Let’s keep sharing those stories.”

To see photos of Salvos living our vision, head to the #livelovefight album at others.org.au/livelovefight and don’t forget to use the hashtag #livelovefight when posting social media photos of Salvos in action!

Enrolments

GERALDTON CORPS WA



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHRIS REID, Western Australia Divisional Commander, enrolled Alan and Marnie Shaw, and Ben Farrington (holding his son, PJ) as senior soldiers during a visit to Geraldton Corps on 21 January. The flagbearer is Renae Farrington.

PORT AUGUSTA CORPS SA



CAPTAIN MICHAEL JOHNSON, Corps Officer, enrolled Brooke as a junior soldier on 18 March. Brooke is pictured with (from left) Captain Elizabeth Johnson, Big Bud Betty, and Captain Michael Johnson.

SOUTH BARWON CORPS VIC



CORPS OFFICER, Major Mal Davies, enrolled Colin Cook as a senior soldier on 18 March. Colin is pictured giving his testimony, while youth worker James Ashley holds the flag.

TUGGERANONG CORPS ACT



CORPS OFFICERS, Envoy Roz Edwards and Major Colin Maxwell, enrolled Tony and Sandra as senior soldiers on Easter Sunday.

PORT MACQUARIE CORPS NSW



CAPTAIN NATHAN HODGES enrolled Braden Clarke and Bradley Allen as senior soldiers on 8 April.

others

Send us your enrolment stories.

We want to share your stories about recently enrolled junior and senior soldiers, and accepted adherents. Please send details, including date of enrolment, name of the corps or centre, name of enrolling officer(s), name of soldier(s) and/or adherent(s), and a high-resolution photo of the individual/group, to Simone Worthing at simone.worthing@aeu.salvationarmy.org

Young people around the world ‘Shine’ for Jesus

FROM THE CARIBBEAN to Denmark, from Russia to Sri Lanka, from South Africa to Argentina, from the United Kingdom to Australia, young people all over the world were at the forefront of ministry during The Salvation Army’s international children’s and youth weekend.

The weekend (24-25 March) was part of The Salvation Army’s ongoing Whole World Mobilising initiative.

Young people around the globe could be found leading various events – Sunday meetings, youth seminars, worship concerts, prayer stations, family events, movie nights, teen coffee, Mobilising rallies, Palm Sunday marches, food drives, prayer walks, art outreaches, hospital visits, community breakfasts, junior soldier rallies, barbecues – and so much more!

The theme of the weekend was “Shine!”, using scripture from Isaiah 60:1 as the focus: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord arises upon you.”

To kick off the weekend, video messages of encouragement and prayer were shared



^ Children from Mendoza Corps in Argentina (above left) and Jakarta Corps in Indonesia (above right) got into the spirit of The Salvation Army’s international children’s and youth ‘Shine’ weekend.

from General André Cox and the Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle.

Across the rest of the world, young people used social media to encourage and inspire one another, sharing photos and videos of

their activities. Some corps used Facebook Live to broadcast their meetings.

Visit the Whole World Mobilising social wall to see videos, prayers and photos from the weekend: walls.io/jcq6i

Pethybridges on Eastern Europe ‘adventure’

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS Kelvin and Cheralynne Pethybridge, officers of the Australia Eastern Territory, began their new appointments as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries, Eastern Europe Territory, on 1 April.

The Pethybridges will be based in Chisinau, capital of Moldova. Other nations making up the territory are Romania, the Republic of Georgia and Ukraine.

“I am very excited about the opportunity and the adventure,” Lieut-Colonel Kelvin said. “The Army is growing in the Eastern Europe Territory, and I am looking forward to being part of that, meeting new people, gaining new perspectives on life and experiencing a new part of the world.”

“It will be a whole new world to us and I have heard amazing things about it,” said



^ The Pethybridges have begun their service in the Eastern European Territory.

Lieut-Colonel Cheralynne. “I am looking forward to serving and being part of the energy, enthusiasm and faithfulness of the people here.”

Welsh plans for minimum alcohol unit price hailed

THE WELSH GOVERNMENT’S proposals for a minimum unit price of 50p for alcohol has been warmly welcomed by The Salvation Army as a significant step on the road towards helping thousands of people struggling with alcohol misuse across Wales.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething’s announcement last month that minimum unit pricing would be introduced means that alcohol will be priced according to its strength to combat the growing availability of cheaper, stronger alcohol.

“The Salvation Army welcomes this commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of those living in Wales and the increased focus on the harm caused by the dependent use of alcohol,” said Major Lynden Gibbs, Addiction Support Officer.

Gospel shared via walkie-talkie in the Marshall Islands

SALVATION ARMY ministry leaders in the remote Marshall Islands, Raston and Jewel Lanwe, have come up with a novel way to share God's word – by walkie-talkie.

Each day, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where the Marshall Islands are located, God's word is broadcast over the air in this singular way.

The service is an outreach of The Salvation Army Imiej Corps, where Raston and Jewel are the leaders.

Imiej is located approximately 3675km south-west of Honolulu and 3865km north-east of Cairns, with a population that fluctuates between 60 and 80 residents.

"[Walkie-talkies] are very popular on our atoll since there is very little phone service available," said Jewel. "At first we used them to keep in touch with each other, but then one day, when reading Ecclesiastes, I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to use the walkie-talkies for a greater purpose."

The Lanwes soon started praying on the walkie-talkie daily at 7.30am and 7.30pm.

"After a while, everyone on Imiej wanted to join our prayer meeting, so they all went and bought their own walkie-talkies," Jewel said. "I see God present every day and we feel his blessing as we sing and pray together."

IMASIC tackles challenging issues at special gathering in New York



^ Members of IMASIC, including Australia's Casey O'Brien (fourth from left) attended events in the UN General Assembly to mark International Women's Day.

THE SALVATION ARMY'S International Moral and Social Issues Council (IMASIC), held meetings recently at the Army's International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) in New York.

Australia's Casey O'Brien, Territorial Social Justice Coordinator based in Sydney, is a member of this council.

IMASIC is responsible for developing positional statements which are based on principles derived from The Salvation Army's understanding of Holy Scripture, Christian wisdom and experience gathered throughout history and The Salvation Army's own ministry.

This IMASIC meeting began initial work to develop positional statements on sexism, capital punishment and the creation of life. Further development took place on 11 facilitator resources to encourage discussions on issues related to human sexuality.

The council currently comprises 15 Salvationists from all parts of The Salvation Army world.

Members are rotated regularly, while always maintaining a wide geographical and cultural spread.

IMASIC members also attended events in the United Nations General Assembly marking International Women's Day on 8 March.

Chief of Staff leads Kenya West 10th anniversary celebrations

THOUSANDS OF SALVATIONISTS travelled from across The Salvation Army's Kenya West Territory recently to celebrate the territory's 10th anniversary. Special guests were the Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle,

World Secretary for Women's Ministries.

At the opening celebration, the Chief thanked Salvationists and friends for their faithful service over the past 10 years – since the Kenya Territory was divided into two [West and East].

Afternoon rallies featured joyful and vibrant African presentations.

On Sunday, the international visitors saluted thousands of Salvationists who marched through the streets and gathered at Bukhungu Stadium for a holiness meeting.

PATRICIA WATKINSON



MAJOR PATRICIA AMY Watkinson was promoted to glory from her home at Millward Aged Care, East Doncaster, Victoria on 14 March, aged 86. The Thanksgiving Service, conducted by Major Bram Cassidy, to celebrate and honour her life was held at Le Pine Funerals, in Lilydale, on Friday 23 March.

Patricia was born to Claremont and Amy Aston in South Australia and spent her childhood years in Kilkenny, South Australia. Having received God's call to officership, Patricia was accepted for the *Standard Bearers* session of 1950. Leaving her family and employment as a saleswoman, she moved to Melbourne to commence her training.

Upon her commissioning, Patricia's first appointment was as a House Staff Officer at the training college, where she served for four years before moving to the Bayswater Boys Vocational Centre and Training Farm in Victoria. Following her marriage to Lieutenant George Watkinson in December 1956, there was a break in their service, recommencing as envoys in Cornwall Corps, Tasmania, in 1958.

In October 1958, Lieutenants Patricia and George transferred to the Zambia Territory, where Patricia served at Chikankata Hospital for nearly five years, during which time their four children were born – George, Jean, Dell and Raymond (deceased). Patricia's further appointments were in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) at Divisional Headquarters in Matabeleland, three consecutive Divisional Home League Secretary appointments in Midlands Division, Central Mashonaland Division and North Mashonaland Region. These were followed by an appointment in The Salvation Army primary schools in North Mashonaland and the Finance Department, Zimbabwe Territorial Headquarters.

Upon returning to Australia in 1979, Major Patricia served in the South Australia Divisional Headquarters before undertaking roles in the Special Events/Travel and

Finance Departments at Territorial Headquarters, Victoria.

In 1984, Patricia and George were appointed to the Kenya Territory where she undertook responsibilities for child sponsorship. This was followed by a move to the Southern Africa Territory and a time that nurtured Patricia's growing passion for pastoral care. In all, Patricia and George served in Africa for 29 years. Upon returning to the Australia Southern Territory in 1992, Patricia served as a Pastoral Care Officer and then as Divisional Companion Club Secretary in Eastern Victoria prior to her retirement from active service in 1995.

In retirement, Patricia continued to devote a great amount of her time to Companion Clubs, serving at Eastern Victoria Divisional Headquarters, Bible Study Fellowship, social activities at Hayville Retirement Village and raising funds for missionary support, particularly for Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe.

Patricia is survived by her children, George and Jacqui Watkinson, Majors Jean and Bram Cassidy, Dell and Chris Stanley, her grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

BRIAN SAMPSON



MAJOR BRIAN EDWARD Sampson was promoted to glory on 31 March, after a short illness, aged 74. The funeral for Major Sampson was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Adelaide, on 7 April.

In 1970, Brian left his job as a storeman and his home corps of Dandenong, Victoria, to commence training at The Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne with the *Victorious* session. Shirley Mann was also in this session of cadets, and she and Brian were engaged following their two years of training.

The newly commissioned Lieutenant Brian took up his first appointment as Corps Officer at Alamein Corps, Victoria and upon his marriage to Shirley, they were

appointed to Queenstown Corps in Tasmania where they celebrated the birth of their eldest child, Kerry, during these years. A subsequent appointment as Corps Officers at Richmond, Victoria, brought them back to Melbourne, where their son, Peter, was born. This was followed by an appointment as Corps Officers of Ballarat West (now Delacombe) Corps, where they welcomed their third child, Michael. Brian and Shirley then undertook corps officer appointments at Stawell (Vic), Gosnells (WA), Divisional Youth Secretary in Northern Victoria Division and Corps Officers at Melbourne City Temple (Vic).

In 1991, Majors Brian and Shirley moved to South Australia, where Brian served as a Planned Giving and Public Relations Officer, followed by Corps Officer at Seacombe Gardens, prison chaplain, and Corps Officer at Nailsworth. A move to Western Australia as Corps Officers at Rockingham was their final appointment before Brian and Shirley retired in October 2002. Shirley was promoted to glory in 2006.

In retirement, Brian returned to South Australia and served as the Corps Officer at Victor Harbor Corps. He married Jo Minick in March 2014 and they enjoyed spending time together in their homelands of Australia and the United States.

Brian will be remembered for his music, sense of humour, caring nature and encouraging words. He is survived by Jo, Kerry and Nicholas, Peter and Charmaine, Michael and Tamara, along with his grandchildren Summer, Charlie, Charlotte and Eleanor.

Tribute reports.

To have a Tribute included in an issue of *Others*, please email your report of no more than 250 words and accompanied by a high-resolution (no smaller than 1mb) head-and-shoulders photograph of the individual, to others@aus.salvationarmy.org

The editorial team at *Others* will make every effort, but cannot guarantee, to print the report in the next available issue of the magazine.

About people

APPOINTMENTS

Effective 29 March

Lieut-Colonel Donna **Evans**, Moral and Social Issues Council, Chair (additional appointment).

Effective 2 April

Captain Phillip **McCall**, Corps Officer, Goulburn Corps, NSW/ACT Division; Major David **Twivey**, Area Officer Sydney Wide, NSW/ACT Division (additional appointment)

Effective 9 April

Major Christine **Waller**, Divisional Secretary for Women's Ministries (SA) and Assistant to Public Relation Secretary (SA) Divisional Headquarters, South Australia/Northern Territory Division; Major Jeffrey **Waller**, Business Development Officers (SA), Public Relations Department Divisional Headquarters, South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

Effective 11 April

Major Susan **Wallace**, Corps Officer, Adelaide Congress Hall, South Australia/Northern Territory Division.

Effective 18 April

Captain Philip **Abram**, Associate Corps Officer-Community Engagement, Adelaide Congress Hall (second appointment).

Effective 23 April

Lieut-Colonel Lisa **Venables**, National Head of Centre for Restoration.

Effective 1 May

Captain Paul **Lorimer**, Executive Officer to the National Commander, Office of the National Commander; Captain Robyn **Lorimer**, Executive Support Officer, Office of the National Executive.

Effective 28 May

Aux-Lieutenants Bernie and Terri **Muendel**, Corps Officers, Eastlakes Corps, NSW/ACT Division.

Effective 1 July

Major Kaylene **Fyfe**, Assistant Under Secretary for South Pacific & East Asia Zone, International Headquarters; Lieut-Colonel Cheryl **Carpenter**, International Programme Coordinator, International Headquarters; Lieut-Colonel Bruce **Carpenter**, member of the IFAS (International Finance and Accounting

Standard) implementation team, International Headquarters.

BEREAVEMENT

Major Lyndal **Barker**, of her husband, Ron **Barker**, on 26 March; Major Isabel **Gates** of her brother, James Martin, on 7 April.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Patricia **Watkinson** on 14 March; Lieut-Colonel Stanley **Everitt** on 29 March; Major Brian **Sampson** on 31 March; Captain Blair **Bowler** on 10 April.

Engagement calendar

COMMISSIONERS FLOYD AND TRACEY TIDD (NATIONAL LEADERS)

Melbourne Thurs 3 May – Victoria Red Shield Appeal Business Launch.

Perth Wed 9 May – WA Red Shield Appeal Breakfast Launch.
Sydney Thurs 10 May – NSW Red Shield Appeal Business Launch.

London Fri 11 May-Fri 1 June – Salvation Army High Council.

COLONELS MARK (NATIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY) AND JULIE CAMPBELL (NSWM/GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE)

Melbourne Thurs 3 May – Victoria Red Shield Appeal Business Launch.

Sydney Thurs 10 May – NSW Red Shield Appeal Business Launch.

Adelaide Sat 12-Sun 13 – South Australia divisional visit.

South Australia Sun 13 – Golden Grove Corps.

Hobart Thurs 17 – Tasmania Red Shield Business Launch.

Victoria Sat 19-Sun20 – Moe Corps visit.

Sat 26-Sun 27 – Red Shield Neighbourhood Appeal Doorknock Weekend.

WORDS
SANDY REID

I went in search of healing ... and I found Jesus!

MY FIRST CONNECTION WITH The Salvation Army was when I was living in the same street as the corps at Long Jetty. My son and I had just moved to the Central Coast of NSW and I was needing a bed. Darren [Kingston] was the corps officer at the time and he was lovely. He helped me with a food hamper and sent me down to the Family Store to pick out a mattress for my son's bed.

At the time, I was living in addiction and had got myself caught up with the wrong crowd. I was out clubbing on the weekends and caring for my son every other weekend, and it was just getting really out of hand. My partner had died of an overdose in 2009 and it was a really, really hard time. That's how we ended up on the Central Coast; I had moved away from all of my family, all of my friends, just to start over. But I continued on [taking drugs] but it was more secretive. I was seeking advice from psychics and mediums, trying to get in contact with my partner who had passed away. I ended up getting so unwell that I needed to go into a mental health facility.

I had been searching for healing, love and connection in all the wrong places. Then I thought, "Well, hang on a minute, who is my healer?" I started remembering scriptures from when I was a little girl about who Jesus was. I started to think, "Well, if Jesus is my healer then why, when I went to these healing places, didn't they tell me about Jesus?" I felt this great injustice, like I was missing out on the truth. So I went searching.

I started attending a Baptist church around the corner from where I lived and I'd have to walk past The Salvation Army to get there. One night, I had this realisation that the reason why I had become unwell in my mind was because of what I was carrying. God showed me that it was the guilt that I had been feeling from all of the mistakes I'd made, and the resentment and bitterness that I still held. He then reminded me of his grace and the promise of forgiveness.



After years of drug abuse, Sandy Reid has found love and acceptance at her 'spiritual home' at Long Jetty Corps on the NSW Central Coast.

I got down on my knees and I repented. I clearly heard, in a strong but small voice, to go to the first church that I saw. And I knew that it was The Salvation Army. The next day was a Sunday. I walked down the street and it was my first experience of a Salvation Army corps. I sat down and I was welcomed by the church people and loved. It was the beginning. Since then, my life has been transformed. The Lord has restored me. He called me out of darkness, has blessed me and has been adding to my life abundantly ever since.

In 2015, I became the very first mature-aged student and parent to attend the Salvo Discipleship School, which is located on the Central Coast. I am now the personal assistant to the Long Jetty Corps Officers, Andrew and Melissa Humphries. Being connected into a church family who fellowship together, who love one another and who serve God is something that I am so privileged to be part of. I could never be more grateful for the God whom I serve and love.

The Salvation Army's

Trek for Hope

CHINA 2018

Trek the Great Wall with the Salvos 8–18 September 2018

Discover the ancient history of the Great Wall, explore China's bustling capital, Beijing, and raise vital funds to help Aussies experiencing homelessness.

FAST FACTS

Dates: 8-18 September 2018

Trek duration: 5 days

Level of difficulty: moderate (3/5)

Registration fee: \$770 (non-refundable)

Fundraising target: \$3750 (excludes travel)

Travel quote: \$4450 (including taxes)*

Accommodation: twin share in 2-3 star hotels

Minimum age: 18 (younger ages considered on application)

Places are limited. Register your interest today.

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